

PRESS RELEASE

October 5, 2006

RE: UNITED STATES v. MELVIN FINLEY, JR.

United States Attorney Terrance P. Flynn announced today a four-count Indictment, charging MELVIN FINLEY, JR., age 51, of Buffalo, New York, with conspiracy to distribute controlled substances in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846, unlawful possession of identification documents in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028(a)(6), unlawful possession of unauthorized access devices in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1029(a)(3) and being a felon in possession of a firearm in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1). The charges in the indictment carry a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment, a fine of \$1,000,000, or both. It should be noted that the fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime . . . is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. **(Disciplinary Rule 7-107(B)(6)).**

United States Attorney Flynn stated that the Indictment charges the defendant with conspiring with others between January 2003 and February 2006 to distribute quantities of fentanyl, cocaine base and hydrocodone, Schedule II and III controlled substances in the City of Buffalo. The indictment also charges the defendant with the possession with intent to defraud of 15 or

more debit and credit cards which were lost, stolen or obtained with intent to defraud and with unlawful possession of stolen identification documents. Lastly, the indictment charges the defendant with having been previously convicted of a felony and in possession of a .22 caliber rifle.

The Indictment was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Nancy Coté, Resident Agent in Charge, United States Secret Service, under the direction of Michael C. Bryant, Special Agent in Charge, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, under the direction of David P. DeJoe, Resident Agent in Charge, the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General Northeast Field Office, under the direction of Jeffrey G. Hughes, Special Agent in Charge and the Town of Hamburg Police Department, under the direction of Supervisor Steven Walters.